

Unofficial translation from Ukrainian

Ukraine's commitments to achieve the goals of the Summit for Democracy

(December 9-10, 2021)

In recent years, Ukraine has made significant efforts to strengthen the rule of law and to build democratic institutions. Against the backdrop of Russia's ongoing aggression, the country has achieved significant progress in the implementation of structural transformations. This includes public administration reform, decentralization, digitalization, deregulation, improvement of business climate, reform of the energy market, security and defense sector.

Furthermore, at the initiative of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Law on all-Ukrainian referendum was drafted and adopted in the beginning of 2021. This document's main goal is to give the Ukrainian people the right to make decisions on state matters independently and directly. The implementation of the Law will increase the opportunities for the citizens to participate in state governance.

Ukraine is currently an outpost of democracy and freedom in Europe. For the eighth year in a row, Ukrainians are defending with arms not only their freedom, but the values of democracy and the free world.

The Ukrainian leadership is set on taking comprehensive actions that will ensure further sustainability of true changes, and, as a result, genuine transformation of Ukraine into a modern, resilient, and competitive democracy of a Western standard, a reputable member of the Transatlantic community.

This is the future that the Ukrainian society strives for. The following measures, which Ukraine undertakes to implement, among others, will help to approach closer to this goal.

Protection of human rights

Ensuring respect for human rights, civil and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international standards and commitments, and combating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and discrimination against the LGBTQI+ community are important areas that Ukraine will strengthen and develop.

In order to improve the state's activities to promote and ensure human rights and freedoms, to create effective mechanisms for their implementation and protection, to resolve systemic problems in this area the National Strategy for Human Rights and the relevant Action Plan for its implementation in 2021-2023 were adopted in March 2021.

In addition, as part of its contribution to the Summit for Democracy in the domain of human rights protection, Ukraine undertakes the following commitments:

- to ratify relevant international treaties and conventions, in particular the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention);
- to increase the responsibility for violence against any person, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or political views;
- to take actions to address the systemic problem of excessive length of criminal and civil proceedings and to introduce effective instruments of legal protection;
- to continue cooperation with international organizations aimed at achieving gender equality, protection of women and children from violence, including in the area of international conflict caused by the aggression of the Russian Federation, to ensure the rights of internally displaced persons as one of the most vulnerable groups;
- to provide support to the activities of the UN Monitoring Mission for Human Rights in Ukraine;
- to ensure the implementation of the National Strategy on Creation of Barriers-free Environment in Ukraine according to the Government adopted Action Plan for 2021-2022;
- to ensure preparation for the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, taking into account the amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine on justice;
- to take actions on improving the institutions of direct democracy and ensuring the rights of territorial communities to participate in making decisions on the matters of local importance;
- to introduce state funding under the existing programs of Jewish studies in Ukraine, namely the programs of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy";
- to develop measures to preserve and protect Jewish traditions in Ukraine, in particular through conducting a national information campaign on the historical lessons of the genocides in the XX century;
- to develop mechanisms to counter the spread of xenophobia, anti-Semitism and Russian chauvinism (the geopolitical doctrine of the "Russian world"), to ensure appointment of liaison officers/coordinators in relevant law enforcement agencies for operational interaction with national community organizations, including local Jewish communities.

Fight against corruption

Corruption today is one of the main problems and threats to stability and security of society and the state, which causes devastating damage to sustainable development and the rule of law. Ukraine is making decisive efforts to foster societal intolerance to all forms of corruption, to establish a culture of integrity and respect for the rule of law.

Since 2014, Ukraine has been consistently implementing large-scale anti-corruption initiatives and has achieved a significant progress in combating corruption.

Ukraine has established anti-corruption infrastructure with due political support to ensure effective operation of anti-corruption bodies, such as the National Anti-Corruption Agency, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Anti-Corruption Court, the State Bureau of Investigations, the National Agency of Ukraine for Finding, Tracing and Management of Assets Derived from Corruption and Other Crimes.

A number of innovative anti-corruption tools have been introduced, including the ProZorro e-procurement system. The Unified State Register of Declarations of Persons Authorized to Perform the Functions of the State or Local Self-Government, the Unified State Register of Political Parties' Reports on Property, Incomes, Expenses, and Liabilities of a Financial Nature are functioning successfully.

At the same time, ensuring the effective functioning of the newly created anti-corruption bodies, as well as bringing top corrupt officials to justice, remain an urgent task. A significant challenge also remains the activities of oligarchic business groups, which, taking advantage of the monopoly position in certain sectors of the economy, prevent fair competition, "wash out" investment resources, undermine the sustainable economic development of Ukraine.

With a view to continuing systematic work in the fight against corruption, as well as its contribution to achieving the goals of the Summit for Democracy, Ukraine undertakes the following commitments:

- to adopt a new Anti-Corruption Strategy, which will coordinate the anti-corruption activities of all public authorities and local governments, as well as will contribute to progress in combating corruption, building effective and inclusive democratic institutions;
- to introduce innovative and digital technologies to prevent and detect corruption activities while ensuring adequate protection of personal data and confidential information;
- to increase transparency and accountability in management of public finances and public procurement, to take actions on ensuring transparency in the use of public funds by relevant authorities;
- to create a centralized information resource (portal) on a unified IT platform for accounting of state assets and improving the practice of state property management by digitizing and simplifying the relevant procedures;
- to ensure adoption and implementation of legally sound legislation in order to prevent threats to national security associated with excessive influence of persons of significant economic and political importance in public life (oligarchs).

Combating authoritarianism

Ukraine protects the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of its citizens in the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, as well as certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, implements initiatives for reintegration of these territories, social protection and support of the population living in these territories.

Legal actions in international courts to hold the Russian Federation to account are underway.

Ukraine does not recognize the results of presidential election in Belarus in August of 2020, strongly condemns the repression carried out by the Lukashenko regime against its citizens.

As a contribution to achieving the goals of the Summit for Democracy, Ukraine undertakes the following commitments:

- to take actions to bring the Russian Federation to justice for ongoing systemic violations on the territories of Ukraine which are temporarily occupied by Russia, and to seek the release of political prisoners and hostages held in these territories and in the Russian Federation;
- to consolidate international political pressure on the Russian Federation in order to compel it to stop searches, arrests, detentions, ill-treatment, abuse of anti-extremism legislation against Ukrainian citizens in the temporarily occupied territories of our state;
- to continue development of the international initiative Crimea Platform in order to assert and strengthen democratic values, restore the rule of law and adhere to the international order based on universally recognized rules and principles of international law. To work with international partners of Ukraine on the use of the Crimea Platform as a forum for finding ways towards deoccupation of other temporarily occupied territories and resolution of conflicts in the area of the Eastern Partnership;
- to develop an initiative on creating an international television platform to counter the spread of disinformation and the information aggression in the Russian-language media space;
- to conduct a systematic information campaign to counter manifestations of political authoritarianism in the modern world, focusing on violations of human rights and freedoms by respective political regimes;
- to engage state and non-state scientific / expert institutions and centers, civil society organizations in research and coverage of authoritarianism as a socio-political phenomenon that is extremely dangerous for democracy, human rights and freedoms;
- to continue support to the citizens of Belarus who are systematically oppressed by the Lukashenko regime, to promote the activities of Belarusian public organizations on its territory;
- to work with international partners on the establishment in Ukraine of a Center for Support of Democratic Transformation in Eastern Europe.